

Appl. No. : 10/563,731
Filed : January 6, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An adjuvant comprising a cationic surfactant and ~~an antigenic component comprising~~ an apolar fraction or part of the apolar fraction of a total lipid extract of a mycobacterium.

2. (Previously presented) An adjuvant according to claim 1, wherein the part of the apolar fraction of the lipid extract is selected from the group consisting of phthiocerol dimycocerosates, trehalose mycolipenates, glycosylated phenol phthiocerols, thehalose mycolates, sulfolipids, triacylglycerols and menaquinones.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) An adjuvant according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant is DDA, DODA, DC-chol or DOTAP.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A vaccine comprising the an adjuvant according to claim 1.

7. (Currently amended) A vaccine according to claim 6, wherein said vaccine is formulated for parenteral, oral or mucosal administration.

8. (Currently amended) A vaccine according to claim 6, wherein the vaccine comprises an antigenic component comprising ~~comprises~~ an antigenic epitope from a virulent mycobacterium.

9. (Previously presented) A vaccine according to claim 8, wherein the antigenic component comprises an ESAT6-Ag85B hybrid or a fragment thereof.

10. (Previously presented) An improved vaccine for cancer, allergy or an autoimmune disease, wherein the improvement comprises the adjuvant of claim 1.

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11. (Currently amended) A delivery system comprising the ~~an~~ adjuvant according to Claim 1.

12. (Previously presented) A method of preparing an adjuvant according to claim 1 comprising:

dissolving a cationic surfactant and an antigenic component that comprises an apolar fraction or part of the apolar fraction of a total lipid extract of a mycobacterium in a solvent;

evaporating said solvent from said dissolved cationic surfactant and antigenic component with a gas;

drying said cationic surfactant and said antigenic component;

bringing said cationic surfactant and said antigenic component into a solution so as to form a thin lipid film; and

formulating the adjuvant of claim 1 from said thin lipid film.

13. (Previously presented) The adjuvant of claim 1, wherein said mycobacterium is BCG, *M. microti*, *M. tuberculosis* or *M. vaccae*.

14. (Previously presented) The adjuvant of claim 2, wherein said glycosylated phenol phthiocerols are phenolic glycolipids.

15. (Previously presented) The vaccine of claim 8, wherein said virulent bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *M. tuberculosis*, *M. bovis* and *M. africanum*.

16. (Previously presented) An adjuvant comprising a neutral or anionic surfactant and an antigenic component comprising an apolar fraction or part of the apolar fraction of a total lipid extract of a mycobacterium.

17. (Previously presented) An adjuvant according to claim 16 wherein the surfactant is DOPE/PC or DOPE/PC/PG.